



Surge price time! Is a cab cheaper? **4** A guide to the revamped Wrigley **6**



Tuesday
APRIL 12, 2016

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A Chicago Tribune publication

Totally **titus**

TITUS ANDROMEDON—AND ACTOR TITUSS BURGESS—
GET THE CHANCE TO REALLY SHINE IN SEASON 2
OF ‘UNBREAKABLE KIMMY SCHMIDT’ PAGES 8-10



EAT

NEW BELGIUM BEER DINNER

Schubas Tavern

3159 N. Southport Ave.
773-525-2508

A five-course dinner with beer pairings includes parsnip, potato and pear bisque with Hof Ten Dormaal golden ale and beef sliders with Botanical Imperial IPA. 6 p.m. \$50. Tickets: lh-st.com

PENROSE BEER DINNER

Trenchermen

2039 W. North Ave.
773-661-1540

Chef Pat Sheerin partners with chef Jonathan Zaragoza of Birrieria Zaragoza on a four-course dinner including softshell crab with Rustic saison and goat ribs with Axis sour ale. 6 p.m. \$54. Tickets: brownpapertickets.com



DRINK

CH YERBA MATE GIN LAUNCH

CH Distillery 564 W. Randolph St. 312-707-8780

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DO

POETRY TALK

The Public House Theatre

3914 N. Clark St. 800-650-6449

Poet and playwright Peter Storey hosts a talk show featuring interviews and poetry readings with Gregory Curry ("Artificial Horizon"), Allyson Gonzalez (Save the Bees Worx zine) and hip-hop artist Geoffrey "Dr. Groove" Watts. 8 p.m. \$10. Tickets: pubhousetheatre.com/poetry-talk



IS IT STILL FUNNY?

Music Box Theatre

3733 N. Southport Ave. 773-871-6607

Former Chicago Tribune critic **Mark Caro** introduces a screening of "National Lampoon's Animal House" and discusses how the 1978 comedy holds up to kick off his series of groundbreaking comedy screenings running through May 3. 7 p.m. \$12. Tickets: musicboxtheatre.com

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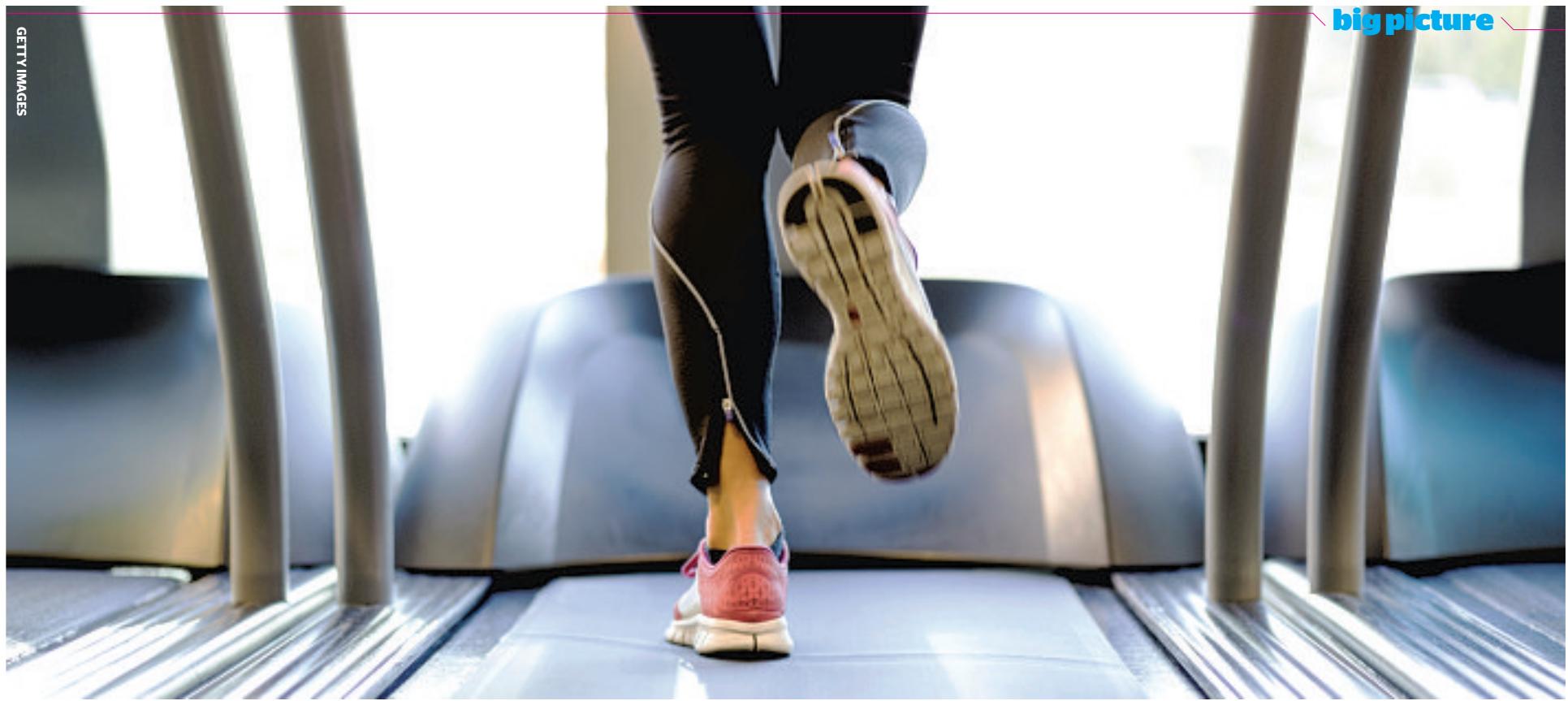
La Sirena Clandestina (954 W. Fulton Market 312-226-5300) offers \$7 glasses of sparkling rosé, \$2 Tecate, \$4 skewers, \$6 kale salad and \$3 garlic fries from 3-5 p.m.

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ANOTHER REASON TO SKIP THE GYM

By Shelbie Lynn Bostedt | REDEYE

Under the category of “things we didn’t want to know,” the pseudo-masochists at FitRated decided to find out just how nasty gym equipment is.

Cue all of us scrambling to cancel our memberships.

FitRated swabbed 27 pieces of equipment (treadmills, exercise bikes and free weights) at three gyms, and the results were pretty gross. The website found more than 1 million colony-forming units (fancy words for bacteria) per square inch on each equipment type.

More than 70 percent of these million-and-some-odd bacteria cells are harmful to humans, which is comforting in an “at least I have a 30 percent chance of not getting a skin infection” kind of way.

The most common type of bacteria found on the equipment were gram-positive cocci, which is commonly associated with skin infections and a frequent cause of pneumonia and septicemia. Talk about a great gym partner, right?

The second most common type were gram-negative rods, which can

Bacteria levels

According to FitRated, the gym is a disgusting place to be. FitRated swabbed 27 pieces of equipment at three different gyms to measure colony-forming units (CFU) of bacteria per square inch. Bottom line, weights are 362 times grosser than toilet seats. **SOURCE: FITRATED**

Gram-positive cocci:

Commonly cause skin infections; a frequent cause of pneumonia, septicemia

Gram-negative rods:

90-95 percent are harmful to humans, and they can be resistant to antibiotics

Gram-positive rods:

Though there are some exceptions, these mostly aren't harmful to humans.

Bacillus:

Found in nature (mainly in soil); some strains are harmful to humans, but others can be helpful

TREADMILLS



1,333,432 CFU

Which is **74** times more bacteria than a water faucet (18,000 CFU)

EXERCISE BIKES



1,333,418 CFU

Which is **39** times more bacteria than a plastic cafeteria tray (33,800 CFU)

FREE WEIGHTS



1,158,381 CFU

Which is **362** times more bacteria than a toilet seat (3,200 CFU)

SOURCE: FITRATED

also cause skin infection, but, BONUS, are sometimes resistant to antibiotics. Tough guy over here. And if those two don't do you in, tied for third most common type were gram-positive rods and bacillus, which can cause ear, eye and respiratory infections.

If you're not sure what more than 1 million germs looks like, FitRated put it into perspective. The average exercise bike (1,333,418 CFU per square inch) has 39 times more bacteria than a plastic reusable cafeteria tray (33,800 CFU).

The average free weight (1,158,381 CFU) is 362 times more germ-infested than a toilet seat, which has a mere 3,200 CFU per square inch. And treadmills (1,333,432 CFU) are home to 74 times the amount of bacteria that a water faucet (18,000 CFU per inch) has.

While it may seem like a no-brainer after reading the numbers, FitRated recommends that gym-goers invest in their own equipment to work out at home rather than share with God knows how many strangers.

Shopping carts are gross, too

Charles Gerba, a University of Arizona microbiology professor, has conducted tests on shopping carts in several markets, including in Chicago, and found that they're more likely to have E. coli present than escalators, ATM buttons and restaurant tabletops and condiment holders, among other things. Gerba said 70 percent of the shopping carts he examined in Chicago in 2014 had the presence of E. coli.

—BECKY YERAK,
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

But if you, like most of us, don't have a spare thousand dollars to throw around on a treadmill, FitRated offers common-sense advice to make sure you don't end up with a nasty infection (or worse). Disinfect machines before and after you use them, don't touch your face during your workout, never walk around barefoot (duh) and be sure to change out of your gym clothes and shower immediately after you get home.

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Rideshare vs. cabs: At what point do you break even?



TRANSIT DIARIES

Rianne Coale

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Picture this: It's 20 minutes before you're supposed to be at work and you haven't yet left your house. You're running a little behind, it's raining and it's also rush hour. Efffff.

You'd normally take public transit, but your commute averages about 25 minutes. You don't want to be late, so you ask yourself: Do I take an Uber/Lyft or a taxi?

Between about 8 and 9 a.m., the rideshare services are almost guaranteed to be surging—and at high multipliers. If you're anything like me, you probably won't request an Uber or Lyft with a surge multiplier higher than 1.4 times or 25 percent, respectively. Ever. I try my best to ride the surge storm out.

In a Twitter poll conducted by RedEye on Thursday, which received 180 votes, only 7 percent of voters said they would be willing to request an Uber or Lyft above a surge multiplier of 2.1 times or Prime Time rate of 125 percent. Sixty-one percent of the voters would accept surge rates between 1.2 times and 1.5 times or 25 percent and 50 percent.

Chances are you've wondered, at what surge multiplier is it actually cheaper to take a cab? Well, RedEye crunched the numbers.

I chose starting points in three neighborhoods—Edgewater, Logan Square and Hyde Park—with a destination of Clark and Lake streets. The distances range between 6 and 8 miles, with a trip time of approximately 20 minutes by car. For the cab fare, I factored in a 20 percent tip and no extra passengers.

FROM EDGEWATER TO CLARK AND LAKE

Normal UberX price: \$14.80

» **1.2 times surge:** \$17.42

» **1.5 times surge:** \$21.35

» **2 times surge:** \$27.90

» **2.5 times surge:** \$34.45

Normal Lyft price: \$15.63

» **25 percent Prime Time rate:** \$19.01

» **50 percent Prime Time rate:** \$22.39

» **100 percent Prime Time rate:** \$29.16

Cab: \$33.90

At or below Uber's 2.2 times surge multiplier (\$30.52) and Lyft's 100 percent Prime Time rate (\$29.16), rideshare would be cheaper.

FROM LOGAN SQUARE TO CLARK AND LAKE

Normal UberX price: \$12.80

» **1.5 times surge:** \$18.35

» **2 times surge:** \$23.90

» **2.5 times surge:** \$29.45

Normal Lyft price: \$13.61

» **25 percent Prime Time rate:** \$16.49

» **75 percent Prime Time rate:** \$22.24

» **125 percent Prime Time rate:** \$28.00

Cab: \$28.10

If Uber's surge multiplier is above 2.3 times (\$27.23) or Lyft's rate is above 100 percent (\$25.12), it would be cheaper to take a cab.

FROM HYDE PARK TO CLARK AND LAKE

Normal UberX price: \$14.60

» **1.4 times surge:** \$19.76

» **1.8 times surge:** \$24.92

» **2.4 times surge:** \$32.66

Normal Lyft price: \$15.41

» **50 percent Prime Time rate:** \$22.07

» **100 percent Prime Time rate:** \$28.72

» **125 percent Prime Time rate:** \$32.05

Cab: \$33.50

You could request a rideshare at up to 2.4 times (\$32.66) or 125 percent (\$32.05) and still pay less than if you were to hail a taxi.

Bottom line, most trips taken below an Uber surge multiplier of 2 times or Lyft Prime Time rate of 100 percent would cost less than taking a cab. And if you find yourself faced with a surge above 2.5 times or 150 percent, you're better off hailing a taxi.

*Prices may vary depending on rounding, starting point, traffic, number of passengers or other delays.

**Surge rates are calculated based on the subtotal of a fare. Service and city fees are added after the subtotal and were included with the total price.

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EMBRACE THE MUD and FIND YOUR SPIRIT

It's a new year and the opportunities to challenge yourself mentally and physically are waiting. Lucky for you it's Tough Mudder season. This year's Tough Mudder is taking place May 21, at Chicago Rockford International Airport in Rockford.

Tough Mudder is a team-oriented obstacle course that uses the natural environment as much as man-made creations to challenge those who are interested in more than just a foot race.

"We are not a race, but a challenge," says Ke'ala Warwick, Tough Mudder Event Marketing Associate. "Tough Mudder is an event for people who enjoy a physical challenge, regardless of who you are or where you are in your fitness goals, you can always participate in a Tough Mudder event and have fun."

Now in its seventh year, Tough Mudder challenges are held throughout the country, offering mud, water, vertical walls, electricity and a hefty-dose of teamwork. The courses may vary depending on the venue, but are an average of 10-12 miles in length, with 20-25 obstacles for participants to maneuver.

In fact, Warwick says Tough Mudder's success isn't about crossing the finish line first, as much as it is in helping other Mudders complete the course.

"Mudders help their teammates, but they also help fellow Mudders they don't know," she says. "Even if you come to run on your own, you have to rely on others to complete the course."

Indeed, Tough Mudder is well-known for its obstacles and innovative product team that work to develop and enhance new and improved obstacles each season. This year is no exception, Warwick says.

DATE:

Tough Mudder on May 21, 2016, and Tough Mudder Half on May 22

WHERE:

Chicago Rockford International Airport,
2 Airport Circle,
Rockford, IL 61109

WEBSITE:

www.toughmudder.com



Debuting this season is the brand new, Block Ness Monster, a water obstacle that will require all hands on deck.

"The concept for our new Block Ness Monster actually evolved from a previous obstacle blueprint called Team Twinkle Toes," says Chris Maltbie, Product Manager at Tough Mudder. "As we took the concept through our obstacle innovation process, the design changed quite a bit and the name wasn't really a good fit anymore. We brainstormed a ton of ideas, and the final suggestion that stuck came from our CEO, Will Dean."

For repeat Mudders, known as Legionnaires, Tough Mudder has created exclusive finisher obstacles just for them, and added new features to some of their classic obstacles that will make the course even more challenging, Maltbie adds.

Intrigued, but still not sure about committing to a full course? The Chicago event will also offer a Tough Mudder Half challenge for the first time, including a 5-6 mile course and about 10-12 obstacles.

"It's a great way to initiate yourself into the Tough Mudder family," Warwick says. "We like to say it's all the mud in half the distance."

Still intrigued, but worried you haven't been training hard enough? No worries, Tough Mudder has it covered. Visit toughmudder.com and click on the Prepare tab to start your Mudder-in-Training program, learn how to build a team, and gain valuable training tips from Coach T. Mud. There is even a newsletter and a four-week Mudder workout tip calendar to help you on your journey.

"We all played in mud and on swing sets as kids, so really you've already been in training for a Tough Mudder your entire life," Warwick says.

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sports



Don't lollygag

As has been the case at U.S. Cellular Field and other major league ballparks, Wrigley now will require fans to enter through metal detectors. (The Cubs were granted a reprieve from this mandate last year because of the renovations.) Which probably means the bars and restaurants in the neighborhood will be packed even sooner than usual. Plan accordingly.

Be prepared to learn

No, not math or marine biology (although that would be cool), but rather insights into the lives of the players. Expect plenty of #TBT-inspired moments on the video board, from pictures of them in Halloween costumes and grade school to other facts previously known only to their friends and families.

"We have guys who are going to be with this club for a while, and we think it's an opportunity for us to introduce them to the fans," said Alison Miller, the Cubs' senior director of marketing. "[Fans] obviously know what they're like on the field, but it's a chance to show what they're like off the field, what their habits are, their favorite things, and also their journey to getting [to the Cubs]."

Music in particular tends to be common ground.

"Anthony Rizzo has divulged that he's trying to learn the piano," Miller said. "A couple

Re-teach me how to WRIGLEY

THE QUICK-HITTING GUIDE TO THE FRIENDLY CONFINES

By Chris Sosa | REDEYE

Expect a lot of double-takes from Cubs fans at Wrigley Field in 2016. Much of what they encounter at the Friendly Confines will be familiar, including the recently returned historic marquee. The bleachers will be open starting on opening day this time, too, and owner Tom Ricketts says the restroom situation has been improved (thank goodness). But there are plenty of new features to navigate once fans get past the construction dust surrounding the ballpark. Here is RedEye's primer on the new-ish Wrigley.

of the guys are guitar guys or play bass."

superstitious.

The Schwarber ball is back

So as not to mess with their mojo, the Cubs let the Kyle Schwarber home run ball from the series against St. Louis in the 2015 NLDS remain atop the video board where he hit it. Then they took it down for a while, and now it's back, because Cubs fans are nothing if not

Speaking of Schwarber ...

Those who collect bobbleheads will want to circle these dates:

- » **July 5:** Anthony Rizzo tarp catch
- » **July 20:** Jake Arrieta
- » **Aug. 1:** Kris Bryant
- » **Aug. 16:** Joe Maddon

The renovated Wrigley Field facade
CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE

» **Sept. 16:** Kyle Schwarber video board home run. "The idea being that we could have a bobblehead that represents that historic event at Wrigley Field," Miller said. FYI, the design on this giveaway is still being developed.

Sausage is still king

Thinking of new accoutrements for hot dogs, or any other sausage sandwich, would seem to get more difficult each year, though somehow ballpark chefs find ways to top themselves.

Among the new menu items at Wrigley are three craft sausages (Caprese, Aloha, and Beef and Cheddar) that will stretch traditionalists' expectations of what a hot dog should be.

"We take maybe something from another food group or another sandwich and we'll top it with that," said David Burns, an executive chef with Levy Restaurants who designs Wrigley's menu. "We did that a few years ago when we came up with Decade Dogs when we did the 100th anniversary [of Wrigley Field]."

The reuben variation is one that surprised Burns in terms of how well the flavors meshed. There's another that makes the list as well.

"The TV Dinner Dog," he said. "I'm like, mashed potatoes and gravy with some roasted corn? And that one actually tasted really good."

The new beef & cheddar sandwich at Wrigley



8 Wrigley foods and their perfect beverage pairings

By Chris Sosa | REDEYE

Deciding what to eat once you settle in at Wrigley Field is fun, and delicious. Pairing the perfect beverage with your ballpark meal is even better, even if you might be freezing your fingers off until May at this point.

To help fans enhance their culinary experience at Cubs games this season, RedEye asked Levy Restaurants beverage director Sean Parisi for his favorite combinations for several of this year's menu additions as well as Friendly Confines staples.

Cotton candy

"A Bob Chinn's mai tai. Since rum is distilled from sugar, you could kinda say it's a cousin of cotton candy."

Get it at: Many concession stands.

Cracker Jack

"Jack Daniel's and ginger ale. Whiskey has lots of caramel notes that make a nice pairing with caramel corn. The Jack-and-ginger flavor combination provides a refreshing profile to balance the sweetness of the caramel corn and the saltiness of the peanuts."

Get it at: Budweiser Bleacher Bar and Jack Daniel's Patio in the upper deck.

Popcorn

"The traditional ballpark pairing would be an ice-cold Budweiser. My preference is for a light, crisp and highly carbonated beverage to cut through the butter and saltiness of the popcorn. If you're in the Audi Club, a pairing many might not consider is sparkling wine, as it is also light, crisp and highly carbonated with a flavor profile that pairs very well with popcorn and other salty snacks."

Get it at: Trust us, you can't miss Budweiser at Wrigley.

Buffalo chicken fries

"Goose Island Green Line pale ale. The hops profile is a bit more subtle than the IPA and offers a bit more assistance in balancing the heat of the Buffalo sauce."

Get it at: Most concession locations.

Gilbert's Caprese sausage

Chicken sausage, diced tomatoes, basil, mozzarella pearls and balsamic glaze

"Barefoot pinot grigio. It's a nice, silky white wine that is a classic pairing with caprese-inspired items."

Get it at: Most concession locations.

Gilbert's Aloha sausage

Chicken sausage, pineapple salsa, lime aioli, Cholula hot sauce and crushed potato chips

"There is something about fruit salsa and citrus flavors that make me think of the beach. And nothing is better on the beach than a cold Corona or frozen margarita."

Get it at: Select concession locations and beer portables.

Gilbert's Beef & Cheddar sausage

Smoked sausage, cheddar, mac 'n' cheese, bacon, barbecue sauce

"Goose Island IPA. You're going to need a big beer to hold up to all the flavors we have exploding together on this sandwich."

Get it at: Most concession locations.

Joe Maddon Third Base hoagie

"Chicago Dog Bloody Mary. The horseradish, tomato and condiment components of the drink make a great complement to this awesome sandwich."

Get it at: Various concession locations.

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from Broadway *to* Netflix

TITUSS BURGESS TALKS ‘UNBREAKABLE KIMMY SCHMIDT,’ RACE AND THE FUTURE OF TITUS ANDROMEDON

By Sara Amato | REDEYE

Titus Burgess never thought that being a comedic actor was in the realm of possibility. But after years in theater and a stint on “*30 Rock*,” Burgess told RedEye that comedy is all he wants to do now. “All I wanted to do was be on Broadway,” he said, speaking over the phone in a recent interview. “But then as I furthered my career and matured, I just suddenly thought, ‘Here’s more that I want to do and more that I think I can do.’”

Burgess currently gets to do more in Netflix’s “*Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*,” which returns 2:01 a.m. Friday for its second season. In the show, which focuses on Kimmy (Ellie Kemper) as she adjusts to life in New York City after being rescued from a doomsday cult in Indiana, Burgess plays Kimmy’s self-centered roommate, Titus Andromedon.

But thanks to Kimmy’s unrelenting sunny disposition, Burgess said that Titus is growing up this season.

“[Kimmy] is wearing me down,” he said. “She’s making me be more humane, and I’m forced to be a lot more vulnerable this season

than last season.”

For example, in the beginning of the second season, Kimmy repeatedly encourages Titus to apologize to his ex-wife for abandoning her at the altar. It’s an episode in which you’re not sure what Titus will do: He could apologize, or he could continue putting himself first. Burgess calls this the domino effect for Titus.

“Once he opens himself up to sort of that type of considerateness and compassion, that door sort of never closes,” he said.

In fact, that door stays open and introduces Titus to something the audience hasn’t seen yet: a partner.



Strong as hell

By Emma Krupp | FOR REDEYE

Never apologize for being who you are

Too cheesy? Maybe, but no less deserving of a shoutout. Kimmy proves time and time again that she is an unabashedly weird person, whether through her sense of style, her constant loudness or her bunker-induced anachronisms. Other than her desire to keep her "mole woman" identity private, though, she's rarely embarrassed about these qualities; she doesn't feel like they need explanation. "I made everything weird 'cause I'm weird," she says plainly to Charles after overzealously confessing her love for him. It's not a problem for her, it's just a fact.

There's no right way to deal with trauma

The show's gotten some backlash for the lighthearted way it deals with Kimmy's recovery from her kidnapping and 15 years of imprisonment. While such a heavy topic does deserve a certain amount of scrutiny, it's helpful to remember that her reaction is hardly a static one. Kimmy may not be in a state of catatonia following her release from the bunker, but her optimism belies signs of PTSD, the nightmares and the inexplicable fear of things like Velcro being just a couple. Her behavior isn't meant to be a template for how to handle years of abuse, but rather a way of examining its effects from one of many, many different perspectives.

Try to see the best in other women

Obviously, no person is a saint simply by virtue of having a uterus. That being said, it's also important and cool to see Kimmy going out of her way to understand the motives of seemingly terrible characters like the teenaged Xanthisse. Despite Xan's constant stream of nasty one-liners, Kimmy still tries her hardest to look beyond the mean-girl exterior and see the Xan who prefers birdwatching to underage day-drinking. In doing so, she helps Xan begin to accept the person she actually wants to be. It's a valuable lesson and also an interesting character choice: After all, Kimmy understands better than anyone how a person's bad experiences can shape who they are.

Be your own source of inspiration

Kimmy's SoulCycle—er, SpiritCycle—revelation hits her after she realizes that her instructor Tristafé is just a stand-in for other sources of domineering male power. "Is he different than any guy who tells you he'll make you richer or prettier or safer?" she asks the rest of her class. Instead, Kimmy tells them to look within themselves as a path to reinvention.

Being badass is not a one-size-fits-all occupation

Too often in pop culture "badass female" is synonymous solely with "cool warrior chick." It's great to see a lady on TV wielding a sword or beating up bad guys and everything, but it's also really refreshing to see a character like Kimmy, who is badass even as she stumbles through trying to figure out adult living. Kimmy's unbreakable by force of will; she's a survivor. "That's what women do," she tells Jacqueline. "We eat a bag of dirt, pass it in the kiddie pool and move on." So we do, Kimmy.



In the first season, Titus ran into Mikey (Mike Carlsen), a construction worker he dubbed a "tasty little Bob the Builder." Titus rebuffed Mikey's advances and asked him to try in 10 years. In the second season, Titus runs into him again and decides to give him a chance.

Burgess said he thought it was odd to give Titus a love interest so soon into the series' run, but noted that the already larger-than-life Titus can still be an interesting and relatable character no matter the situation.

That's a testament to the sharp writing of "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt." The show—created by Tina Fey and Robert Carlock, both of "30 Rock"—touches on provocative subjects in a classy and smooth way, Burgess said.

Last season, his character discovered that he's treated better dressed as a werewolf in New York City than as a black person. In the upcoming season, Burgess' character puts on a one-man show called "Kimono You Didn't," a tribute to one of his past lives (via reincarnation) as a geisha. The show draws ire from the Asian community for its racist portrayal of the Japanese culture ("They named me one of their top five Hitlers of all time. Real Hitler wasn't even on the list!" Titus exclaims about the criticism), but even his harshest critics end up loving the show.

"Unbreakable" integrates race into the plot in a smart way, Burgess said.

"Comedy is born out of the most tense-



Jane Krakowski (from left), Tituss Burgess and Ellie Kemper in 'Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt'

filled, drama-filled situations, and race is such a hot topic in this country," he said. "... A lot of people will not really pay attention to the episode and just take the storyline as though they are promoting or giving stereotypes a platform. But in fact they are just sort of exploring how silly our sensitivity level [is] to the things that seem to be going on in this country and how important it is to move past it and how unimportant race actually is, but we make it too large."

While the role of Titus was written with

Burgess in mind, Burgess said Fey and Carlock pushed him to take the character further and further. He said he was eventually given creative license to be as broad and large as the world has now come to see Titus as.

"It is quite exhausting to live there for too long," Burgess said. "When filming is done, I am OK with hanging him up for a couple of months."

But it's a role he feels suited for. With a music degree from the University of Georgia and an extensive career on Broadway, Burgess'

background put him in a unique position to succeed as Titus. Whereas some people might be uncomfortable singing on camera, he said he feels his background gave him a direct in to who Titus is as a performer and how he thinks.

Netflix is betting on "Unbreakable's" success and has already renewed the show for a third season. As for the future of Titus Andromedon? Burgess said he doesn't want to be boring, but he would rather not know what the plan is for his character.

"I didn't know what was going to happen going into Season 2, and I actually didn't have any hopes or aspirations, and I actually prefer it that way," he said. "I prefer to be in the dark until it's time for them to say, 'Action.' ... It's funnier if I don't know anything about it."

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'Unbreakable' Season 2 is pure joy



Sara Amato

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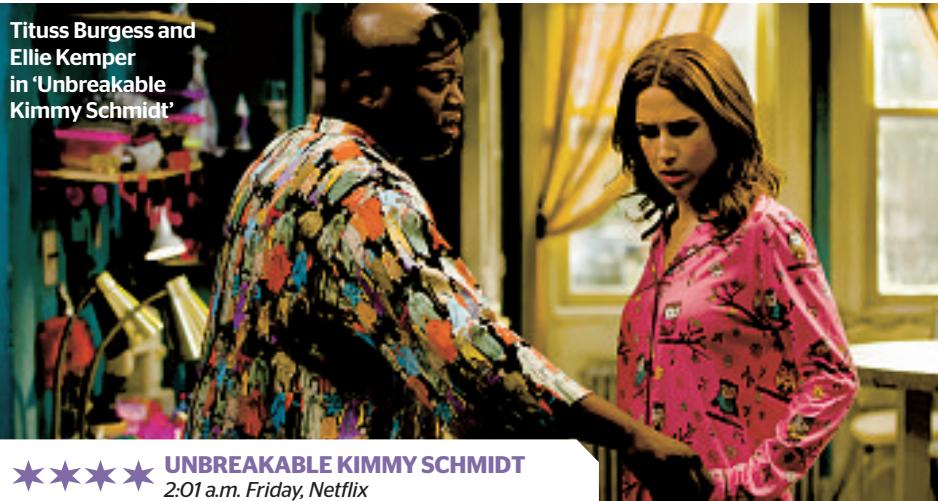
There is an immeasurable amount of joy that comes with the first "ahhh" of Netflix's "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt" theme song. And that's just what the second season of "Kimmy Schmidt" is: episode after episode of pure, immeasurable joy.

The season kicks off at a party at least three months after the end of the first season, but quickly flashes back to explain how the main characters got to this point: Kimmy (Ellie Kemper) is still pining for Dong (Ki Hong Lee), Titus (Tituss Burgess) is doing his Titus things and even finds love, Jacqueline (Jane Krakowski) is divorced and as terrible as ever, and Lillian (Carol Kane) is fighting gentrification one hipster at a time.

With the Reverend Richard Wayne Gary Wayne (Jon Hamm) in jail, the second season begs the question: Can Kimmy Schmidt exist

without the bunker? A resounding yes. There's a lot of joy in watching Kimmy adjust to a normal life again. While we saw glimpses of that in the first season, it's right out front in its sophomore effort. The show flashes back to the bunker because without it, we wouldn't have the Kimmy Schmidt we've grown to love. But while it serves as great comedy, the bunker is no longer necessary to Kimmy's life in New York. And despite the title, it's not only about Kimmy. She has a rat-pack of bandits at her side.

The first season entered strange territory when it came to Jacqueline Voorhees and her heritage, with the show getting flack for its storyline regarding Jacqueline's Native American family history (refresher: Krakowski is white). The show brings back that plot in the first episode of the second season, but drops it immediately and doesn't bring it up again in the six episodes provided to the media. And to much delight but no surprise, Krakowski's character shines brightest when she's emulating her infamous character on "30 Rock." (At one point she quips, "If I can see New Jersey, that means it can see me.")



★★★ **UNBREAKABLE KIMMY SCHMIDT**

2:01 a.m. Friday, Netflix

person, whether or not he's aware of it.

These characters can't exist without each other. And that's one reason to truly be thankful for something like the bunker.

The comedy, already renewed for a third season, clicks from the very first scene. Whereas "30 Rock" took a few seasons to find its groove, creators Tina Fey and Rob Carlock (both of "30 Rock") know exactly who these characters are. They alive, dammit. And it's no miracle that they're better than ever.

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55-59	111.00	92.25	45.00	37.50	23.00	19.25	14.20	11.95
60-64	136.00	103.50	55.00	42.00	28.00	21.50	17.20	13.30
65-69	163.50	126.00	66.00	51.00	33.50	26.00	20.50	16.00
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THE QUOTE

"I don't know—I think I'm a walking human patchwork of all the remarkable, funny women who I have loved and studied over the years, and I am only here because Carol Burnett, Jane Curtin, Phyllis Diller, Whoopi Goldberg, Teri Garr, Madeline Kahn, Lucille Ball, Gilda Radner, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Diane Keaton, Tracey Ullman, Bette Midler, Lily Tomlin and my mom, Sandy Lynn McCarthy, taught me not to fear being the butt of the joke, taught me not to worry about being likable or perfect, and to lovingly go for the kill."

—Melissa McCarthy, to the audience at the MTV Movie Awards on Sunday after becoming the first woman to win the Best Comedic Genius Award.

**End date?**

The CW's "The Vampire Diaries" might be ending after its eighth season. Star **Ian Somerhalder** told fans on Sunday at Walker Stalker Con in Nashville that it was decided to do one last season to "really do the story justice," according to **thr.com**, but a spokesperson for The CW told The Hollywood Reporter that no decision has been made in regard to the future of the show.

Too competitive?

Scarlett Johansson graces the cover of the May issue of Cosmopolitan, and in the issue she gives a little insight on her ill-fated marriage to Ryan Reynolds, according to **eonline.com**. Johansson told the magazine, "The logistics of being with another actor are challenging. There has to be a real understanding of how you share your time, especially when two people's careers are going at the same rate. Or even if one person is more successful than the other, that also proves challenging. There may be a competitive thing."



AP FILE

THE DIGIT

94K That's how many album units **Kanye West**'s "The Life of Pablo" moved in its first week. According to **billboard.com**, 28,000 of those units were pure album sales, while the rest were streaming equivalent. This marks West's seventh No. 1 album on the Billboard 200 chart.

Fast and Eastwood

Scott Eastwood is now a member of the "Fast and Furious" family. According to **deadline.com**, Eastwood, son of Clint Eastwood, will join the cast for the upcoming "Fast 8" film, which includes Charlize Theron, Vin Diesel, Dwayne Johnson, Michelle Rodriguez and others. The movie is set to be released April 14, 2017.



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